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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 22 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex, containing the Panama Declaration, adopted at the Seventh Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, held in Panama City from 22 to 24 November 2013, as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108.

(*Signed*) Pablo Antonio **Thalassinós**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Seventh Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities

Panama, 22-24 November 2013

Panama Declaration

We, the representatives of the anti-corruption authorities of 97 Member States of the United Nations and regions, and of eight international organizations, gathered in Panama City for the Seventh Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA), devoted to the "rule of law and anti-corruption: challenges and opportunities",

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/4, by which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption and established 9 December as the International Anti-Corruption Day,

Recalling also all relevant United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions calling for the expeditious ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Recalling further our Beijing, Bali, Kiev, Macao, Marrakech and Kuala Lumpur Declarations, as well as the recommendations made by the side event of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held in Amman and co-organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and IAACA,

Aware of the importance of the resolutions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties, at its first, second, third and fourth sessions, held respectively at Amman, Nusa Dua, Doha and Marrakech,

Convinced that relevant government agencies, civil society and relevant professional organizations can individually and collectively make significant contributions to the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

1. *Express* our gratitude to the National Authority for Transparency and Access to Information of Panama for hosting the Seventh Annual Conference and General Meeting of IAACA, as well as our deepest appreciation to the Government and people of Panama for their warm hospitality;

2. *Also express* our appreciation to the Government of India and in particular, the Central Vigilance Commission for hosting the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association in New Delhi in April 2013;

3. *Emphasize* the crucial importance of effectively implementing measures supporting and promoting the rule of law in anti-corruption law enforcement, in compliance with the provisions contained in chapters II and III of the United Nations Convention against Corruption as a major obligation and responsibility of

States Parties, as well as a crucial complement to the preventive and criminal law measures of the Convention;

4. *Recognize* that anti-corruption measures can be effectively pursued only in the context of an independent, modern, transparent, fair, efficient and humane criminal justice system based on the rule of law;

5. *Recognize* the key role played by national rule of law institutions such as the prosecution authorities, the judiciary and other law enforcement bodies for the success of the fight against corruption;

6. *Welcome with satisfaction* the fact that 167 countries have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and urge the countries that have not yet done so to expedite the required internal procedures in order to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible, in order to attain the goal of universal adherence to the Convention;

7. *Welcome with appreciation* the important decisions of the Conference of the States Parties in its four sessions held to date, and look forward to further progress in the implementation of its mandate through its fifth session, to be held in Panama City from 25 to 29 November 2013;

8. *Reiterate* our call to the Executive Committee of IAACA, in consultation with the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties, to seek appropriate ways to establish closer collaboration between IAACA and the Conference of the States Parties in order to enhance the involvement and contribution of IAACA and its members in properly and effectively implementing the recommendations made by the Conference of the States Parties;

9. *Pledge* our full support to the ongoing efforts and welcome the recommendations of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, established to overview the review process in order to identify challenges and good practices and to consider technical assistance requirements in order to ensure effective implementation of the Convention;

10. *Pledge also* our full support to the ongoing efforts and welcome the recommendations of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, established to advise and assist the Conference of the States Parties in the implementation of its mandate on the prevention of corruption;

11. *Recognize* the continuing and valuable role of UNODC in developing the tools for the second cycle of the review mechanism, such as the updated self-assessment checklist, and support its pilot testing by the Member States in anticipation of the launching of the second review cycle;

12. *Commend* UNODC for its exceptionally effective work and unwavering commitment in serving as the secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties and its subsidiary bodies and in promoting the implementation of the resolutions of the Conference of the States Parties, including its efforts towards the practical and efficient delivery of technical assistance;

13. *Underline* the importance of collecting best practices of the review process accumulated during the first cycle of the review in order both to facilitate

the conduct of the second cycle and to continue to promote the application of best practices;

14. *Take note with appreciation* of the adoption, in November 2012 of the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies (see appendix), and invite anti-corruption authorities to consider taking into account these principles in order to promote and strengthen the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies, consolidate international action against corruption and enable the Conference of the States Parties to maximize its potential and impact;

15. *Reiterate* our call upon all Member States to institute relevant reforms that promote professionalism and effectiveness of anti-corruption authorities in preventing and combating corruption, the independence and integrity of the judiciary and prosecution service as appropriate, the prevention of conflict of interest in public office, freedom of access to information, and transparency and accountability in public administration, as well as to ensure and preserve the functional independence of all relevant anti-corruption authorities, and in this context reiterate our appreciation for the achievements of the network European Partners against Corruption in unanimously adopting universal principles and standards for anti-corruption authorities and encourage all Member States to consider them favourably in their relevant work;

16. *Urge* anti-corruption authorities to proactively promote with their respective Governments and legislative bodies the development and implementation of appropriate legislative amendments in order to ensure that the criminal justice institutions responsible for maintaining the rule of law have sufficient resources and independence to carry out their respective roles effectively and fairly, in line with articles 7, 11, 30 and 36 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

17. *Commend* UNODC efforts on supporting Member States, upon request, to increase the efficiency and integrity of the judicial and prosecutorial process, and welcome the implementation guide for article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, aimed at assisting States in assessing whether their judicial and prosecutorial integrity systems meet the requirements of the Convention;

18. *Urge* Member States, as well as relevant international organizations and financial institutions, on the basis of the principles of shared responsibility and collective global action, to consider providing additional resources to support such efforts, taking into account also the provisions of article 62 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular paragraph 2 (c);

19. *Express our deepest appreciation* to all relevant international and professional associations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the media for raising public awareness of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the destructive effect of corruption in its many and multifaceted forms, by extending their continuing support and cooperation to IAACA and to the Conference of the States Parties, and underscore the importance of ensuring efficiency and transparency in the operations of the public sector, as well as in its interaction with the private sector;

20. *Express also our appreciation* to the Executive Committee for implementing the initiatives agreed upon in the workplan of the Association, which resulted in the identification of new avenues for enhancing the rule of law in the fight against corruption, generating also a number of new and innovative ideas in

our anti-corruption awareness campaigns and networking platform, request the Executive Committee to devote sufficient resources to ensure that the workplan is implemented fully in an effective, structured and sustained manner and invites the Executive Committee to continue its revision of the workplan, taking into account the results so far achieved, with a view of submitting a revised version at the next annual conference for its approval;

21. *Welcome with great satisfaction* the important contributions and joint initiatives of IAACA members towards the implementation of the workplan, and strongly encourage other members to become fully involved in its further implementation by contributing suggestions or undertaking initiatives, whether individually or jointly with other members and in close collaboration with the IAACA Secretariat, with a view to supporting IAACA in realizing its ultimate goal of promoting the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

22. *Extend our appreciation* to China for the successful conduct of the fifth IAACA seminar held in June 2013 in Jinan, China, as well as for its continuous support for organizing and hosting such training seminars, and encourage other IAACA members to hold similar training events not only regionally or subregionally but also at the national level;

23. *Express our gratitude and deep appreciation* for the stewardship, leadership and vision demonstrated by the founding and incumbent Presidents of the Association in continuously fostering cooperation and partnership among anti-corruption authorities and with relevant international, regional and national organizations and institutions in furtherance of the anti-corruption cause, and highly commend the Executive Director of UNODC and his staff for providing energetic and highly professional support to the work of the Association;

24. *Decide* that the text of this Declaration should be widely circulated by the relevant anti-corruption authorities in their respective countries and that it should be submitted to the Conference of the States Parties at its fifth session and to the United Nations General Assembly.

Appendix

Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies

Jakarta, 26 and 27 November 2012

On 26 and 27 November 2012, current and former heads of anti-corruption agencies, anti-corruption practitioners and experts from around the world gathered in Jakarta at the invitation of the Corruption Eradication Commission of Indonesia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to discuss a set of principles for anti-corruption agencies, to promote and strengthen the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies.

Among the participants were several heads of anti-corruption agencies and representatives of regional networks, notably the Network of National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, the South East Asia Parties against Corruption, the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network, the Southern African Forum against Corruption, the East African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities and the European Partners against Corruption/European contact-point network against corruption (EPAC/EACN).

Representatives from UNDP, UNODC, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Transparency International took part in the proceedings. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Bank also submitted contributions to the conference.

The participants reviewed and discussed country experiences from around the world, challenges faced by anti-corruption agencies and key requirements to ensure the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies.

Considering that the conference sought to discuss and elaborate guidance for anti-corruption agencies as to how to promote and strengthen their independence and effectiveness,

Acknowledging the diversity of anti-corruption agencies around the world in combating corruption, with some mandated to prevent corruption, others focused on investigation or prosecution, or a combination of these functions,

Recalling the international commitments and obligations at the regional and global levels, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to ensure the independence of anti-corruption agencies,

Recalling the Marrakech Declaration, adopted at the Fifth Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA), in particular, the pledge to provide "joint action and support ... to ensure that anti-corruption authorities ... are able to function with the necessary independence, secure and stable funding and specialized staff with professional training, in order to operate effectively and free from any undue influence, in accordance with articles 6 and 36 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption",

Recalling also resolutions 3/2, 3/3 and 4/4 adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its third and fourth sessions, which acknowledge the "vital importance of ensuring the independence and effectiveness" of anti-corruption agencies,

Taking note with appreciation of the Anti-Corruption Authority Standards developed by EPAC/EACN, as welcomed by the Sixth Annual Conference and General Meeting of IAACA,

Taking note with appreciation of the resolve of the Group of 20 to lead by example by "strengthen[ing] the effective functioning of anti-corruption bodies or enforcement authorities in the prevention and fight against corruption, ... enabl[ing] these authorities to carry out their function free from undue influence",

Taking note with appreciation of the efforts made by Transparency International at the fifteenth International Anti-Corruption Conference in Brasilia to promote the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies,

The participants:

1. *Recommend* the following principles to ensure the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies:

- **Mandate**: anti-corruption agencies shall have clear mandates to tackle corruption through prevention, education, awareness-raising, investigation and prosecution, either through one agency or multiple coordinated agencies;
- **Collaboration**: anti-corruption agencies shall not operate in isolation. They shall foster good working relations with State agencies, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, including international cooperation;
- **Permanence**: anti-corruption agencies shall, in accordance with the basic legal principles of their countries, be established by proper and stable legal frameworks, such as the Constitution or a special law to ensure continuity of the anti-corruption agencies;
- **Appointment**: heads of anti-corruption agencies shall be appointed through a process that ensures their apolitical stance, impartiality, neutrality, integrity and competence;
- **Continuity**: in the event of suspension, dismissal, resignation, retirement or end of tenure of the head of an anti-corruption agency, all powers shall be delegated by law to an appropriate official in the agency within a reasonable period of time, until the appointment of a new head;
- **Removal**: heads of anti-corruption agencies shall have security of tenure and shall be removed only through a legally established procedure equivalent to the procedure for the removal of a key independent authority specially protected by law (such as the Chief Justice);
- **Ethical conduct**: anti-corruption agencies shall adopt codes of conduct requiring the highest standards of ethical conduct from their staff and a strong compliance regime;
- **Immunity**: heads and employees of anti-corruption agencies shall have immunity from civil and criminal proceedings for acts committed within the performance of their mandate. Heads and employees of anti-corruption agencies shall be protected from malicious civil and criminal proceedings;
- **Remuneration**: employees of anti-corruption agencies shall be remunerated at a level that would allow for the employment of a sufficient number of qualified staff;

- **Authority over human resources**: anti-corruption agencies shall have the power to recruit and dismiss their own staff according to internal clear and transparent procedures;

- **Adequate and reliable resources**: anti-corruption agencies shall have sufficient financial resources to carry out their tasks, taking into account the country's budgetary resources, population size and land area. Anti-corruption agencies shall be entitled to timely, planned, reliable and adequate resources for the gradual capacity development and improvement of their operations and the fulfilment of their mandate;

- **Financial autonomy**: anti-corruption agencies shall receive a budgetary allocation over which they have full management and control without prejudice to the appropriate accounting standards and auditing requirements;

- **Internal accountability**: anti-corruption agencies shall develop and establish clear rules and standard operating procedures, including monitoring and disciplinary mechanisms, to minimize any misconduct and abuse of power;

- **External accountability**: anti-corruption agencies shall adhere strictly to the rule of law and be accountable to mechanisms established to prevent any abuse of power;

- **Public reporting**: anti-corruption agencies shall formally report at least annually on their activities to the public;

- **Public communication and engagement**: anti-corruption agencies shall communicate and engage with the public regularly in order to ensure public confidence in their independence, fairness and effectiveness;

2. *Encourage* anti-corruption agencies to promote the above principles within their respective agencies, countries and regional networks;

3. *Encourage* anti-corruption agencies to promote these principles to assist members of the executive and the legislature, criminal justice practitioners and the public in general to better understand and support anti-corruption agencies in carrying out their functions;

4. *Call upon* anti-corruption agencies to appeal to their respective Governments and other stakeholders to promote the above principles in international forums on anti-corruption;

5. *Express* appreciation and gratitude to the Corruption Eradication Commission of Indonesia for hosting the international conference on principles for anti-corruption agencies, with support from UNDP and UNODC, to reflect and agree on principles for anti-corruption agencies.

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Security Council

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Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 22 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, the Kingdom of Morocco hosted the twentieth session of the Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Marrakech on 17 and 18 January 2014.

This meeting was chaired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, in his capacity as Chairman of that Committee, in the presence of President Mahmoud Abbas, Head of State of Palestine, and was attended by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Committee and the Secretary General of OIC.

On the basis of the deliberations, the participants adopted a final communiqué (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as documents of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Loulichki**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 22 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Final Communiqué of the twentieth session of the Al-Quds Committee

Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco

15-16 Rabi' Al-Awwal 1435 AH (17 and 18 January 2014)

In response to a gracious invitation by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco and Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, the Committee of Al-Quds held its twentieth session in Marrakech, on 15 and 16 Rabi' Al-Awwal 1435 AH (17 and 18 January 2014), under the effective Chairmanship of His Majesty and in the presence of His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine.

The twentieth session of the Al-Quds Committee saw the participation of their Highnesses and Excellencies the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Committee's member countries along with their accompanying delegations, His Excellency Mr. Iyad Amine Madani, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Mr. Abdelkebir Alaoui Mdaghri, Director General of the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency.

The meeting was attended by international personalities invited, for the first time, as distinguished guests.

His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, opened the meeting by giving a speech wherein His Majesty emphasized the fact that the convening of this meeting clearly attested to the common desire of OIC member States to continue defending not only the legitimate rights of our Palestinian brothers, but also the Arab and Islamic character of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

His Majesty also considered that the defence of the occupied city was not a transient matter, nor was this defence limited to convening Committee meetings. On the contrary, the Committee's action included effective diplomatic initiatives as well as tangible fieldwork in the Holy City, carried out by the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency, which was affiliated with the Al-Quds Committee.

His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, also added that faced with the situation that Al-Quds was undergoing, we must consolidate Arab and Islamic joint action, close ranks and adopt innovative measures to effectively contribute to substantiating the desire for peace, calling for a pragmatic, efficient strategy, in which the Al-Quds Committee would play a crucial role as a permanent mechanism of OIC.

In this regard, His Majesty stressed the fact that Al-Quds was the core of the Palestinian issue, and that no peace was conceivable without an agreement on the final status of East Jerusalem as the capital of the independent Palestinian State.

Afterwards, His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian State, gave an address wherein he thanked His Majesty King Mohammed VI for having invited the Al-Quds Committee to convene at this critical conjuncture, when

Al-Quds Al-Sharif, together with its Muslim and Christian holy sites, continued to undergo Judaization, alteration of its geographical and demographic character and isolation of the Holy City as a whole from its Arab and Islamic environment. His Excellency also called for exerting all possible efforts to save the Holy City from the ferocious aggressions of the Israeli occupation, stressing that Al-Quds was threatened and that the situation required a response, without delay or postponement.

His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, submitted to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, an official document prepared by the State of Palestine containing a list of violations perpetrated by the occupying Israeli authorities in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Foreign Ministers of the Al-Quds Committee member countries held an interactive meeting with the aforementioned international guests in order to explain the situation in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and underscore the responsibility of the international community in preserving the legal status of the city and in safeguarding its role and status, in compliance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

In the light of the deliberations undertaken by the Committee's members, under the effective Chairmanship of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Committee came to the following conclusions:

The Committee:

1. Reaffirms that Al-Quds Al-Sharif remains a central cause for the Islamic Ummah, since it constitutes the ground of any political solution. It also reasserts the fact that any infringement upon the Holy City and the Al-Aqsa Mosque would have serious consequences for the region and is likely to exacerbate the existing tensions, violence and despair in the region and undermine any chances of achieving peace.

2. Reiterates the fact that OIC member States are striving for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace solution in the Middle East, in accordance with resolutions of international legitimacy and based on the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the road map provisions, so that the Palestinian people may be able to establish their sovereign, independent and geographically contiguous State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

3. Considers that Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, resumed since July 2013, constitute a significant milestone in the efforts to reach peace, in accordance with resolutions of international legitimacy and the adopted peacekeeping operations guidelines. In this respect, it should like to emphasize the importance of confronting all actions that are at variance with peace as a goal and serve only to perpetuate and entrench the occupation, which has been in place for 46 years.

4. Condemns and disapproves the fait accompli-based policy adopted by the Israeli occupation authorities in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, as well as all their aggressive and illegal practices that purport to alter the legal status of the Holy City, as well as its civilization features and demographic composition, by harassing the Palestinians through the withdrawal of their identification cards and the demolition of their houses, by forcing them to abandon their homes and through ongoing settlement

activities and land confiscations, as well as the construction of the wall in order to besiege and isolate Al-Quds Al-Sharif from its natural Palestinian environment.

5. Rejects the decisions taken by the occupation authorities to deny worshippers' access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and to allow Jewish extremists to enter the Mosque's precincts and desecrate them. It also rejects the continuous excavations in and around the Mosque and the introduction of alterations to the Mosque for the purpose of changing it from what it was before the occupation, including unlawful attempts to divide it between Muslims and Jews, temporally and spatially, in preparation for its takeover and consideration as one of the Jewish holy sites.

6. Calls upon the international community to raise collective awareness about Al-Quds, considering that any State, institution, organization, community or individual seeking to preserve the identity of Al-Quds Al-Sharif as a historic symbol is an active contributor to building peace and ensuring the conditions for its achievement, thus furthering the agenda of those who endeavour towards it. The Committee also urges the international community to assume its full responsibility in safeguarding Al-Quds, caring for the human, civilizational and international heritage it represents, protecting education, the population and culture in the Holy City and pressuring Israel to cease all occupation practices aimed at changing the legal status of the Holy City.

7. Confirms that the Israeli activities constitute a continuous violation of Security Council resolutions, which have considered that those activities in Al-Quds Al-Sharif are void and without effect and must be suspended immediately.

8. Calls upon the international community as a whole to assume its responsibilities and press Israel to stop its illegal settlements, its violations of the Palestinian people's rights, its provocative advertisements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif, as well as the statements and illegal claims by some of its officials on the annexation of Al-Quds, along with its Islamic and Christian holy sites. All of this is for the purpose of creating the right climate for the success of the resumed peace talks and the attainment of a just and comprehensive solution based on a two-State option, whereby the State of Palestine and Israel could live side by side, as this will contribute to building normal peaceful relations between Israel, its neighbours and the Islamic world, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative.

9. Confirms its support of the Palestinian position in the resumed peace talks. It hails the serious role of the United States of America, sponsor of these negotiations, which ought to decide on all final settlement issues, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif at the top, by considering it as the capital of the State of Palestine, on the basis of a well-defined time schedule and pursuant to resolutions of international legitimacy. Likewise, it stresses the importance of the consultations that the State of Palestine will lead with the Committee Chairmanship and its appeal to contribute to what concerns the future of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

10. Hails the positive impact of the efforts undertaken by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, in order to protect the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and to urge States to refrain from making any compromises in favour of the occupation or do anything likely to undermine the legal status of the Holy City.

11. Welcomes the guiding principles, as adopted by the European Union, which deny Israeli entities in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the rest of the Palestinian territories occupied since June 1967 the right to receive any grants or financial instruments emanating from the European Union. It calls upon the European Union to abide by these guidelines and to play a more effective role in opposing the Judaization of Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

12. Emphasizes the importance of Christian churches as an essential component of the diverse cultural heritage of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, hails the role of these institutions in facing the process of Judaization of the Holy City and calls for strengthening this role and following it through.

13. Urges the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to continue its efforts to preserve the heritage of Al-Quds, as a humanity heritage site and a symbol of coexistence between cultures and faiths. It also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to facilitate the implementation of the World Heritage Committee resolution that provides for the sending of a joint delegation from the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO technical advisory bodies to control and monitor the Israeli excavations in and around the old city of Al-Quds and its walls, by virtue of being an endangered world heritage.

14. Deplores the persistence of Israel, the occupying Power, in closing Palestinian institutions in Al-Quds, especially Bayt-Al-Sharq, and calls upon all OIC member States and upon the international community to take practical measures to put pressure on Israel to get the latter to reopen these institutions and to provide a platform for an official Palestinian presence in Jerusalem.

15. Calls upon the Security Council to pay necessary attention to the escalating tensions and to the critical situation in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and to assume its responsibilities, as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council related to Al-Quds Al-Sharif, especially resolutions 242 (1967), 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 338 (1973), 465 (1980), 476 (1980), 478 (1980) and 1073 (1996), by holding an extraordinary session to discuss the critical situation in the city as a result of continuous and serious Israeli violations of sacrosanct Islamic and Christian landmarks as well as the Israeli Government's disregard of the resolutions related thereto and wilful denial of its responsibilities as an occupying Power.

16. Invites OIC member countries to intervene vis-à-vis other countries and urge them to mend their votes within international organizations regarding decisions related to Al-Quds, in order to make them conformant with both international law and the international community consensus regarding the legal status of the city.

17. Reiterates its appeal to all States to keep rejecting any attempt made by Israel, the occupying Power, to annex the eastern part of Al-Quds, and to abide by their legal obligations in such a way as to oblige their respective governmental, non-governmental and private bodies not to recognize any act supporting the settlement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and contributing to the consolidation of occupation. In this regard, the Committee calls for taking legal actions, in line with international law, against all individuals, institutions and international companies that work directly or indirectly for the benefit of the occupation system, in compliance with international law.

18. Invites OIC member States to adhere, in accordance with the Organization's Charter, to the adoption of the resolutions specific to the Palestinian question and to vote in their favour, specifically those concerning Al-Quds Al-Sharif, in international forums, including the United Nations General Assembly and UNESCO.

19. Praises the role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the protection of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Al-Quds Al-Sharif assumed by His Majesty King Abdullah II, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and welcomes the agreement concluded on 31 March 2013 between His Majesty and His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine.

20. Invites the Permanent Delegates of OIC member States with the United Nations bodies to follow up on the issue of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and to expend all their efforts to guarantee the compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with international laws, relevant United Nations resolutions and the will of the international community, including the emphasis on rejecting any submission of credentials by occupation authority representatives from Al-Quds.

21. Recommends that the General Secretariat of OIC develop practical mechanisms to implement and follow up on the resolutions emanating from the summits and sessions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers related to Al-Quds. Likewise, it invites the General Secretariat to start to arrange visits in coordination with the Chairmanship of the Al-Quds Committee and in consultation with the chairmanship of the Summit and the State of Palestine. These visits are to be made by the Ministerial Communication Group, which was set up by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers during its fortieth session (Conakry, 11 December 2013), in order for the Group to be able to speedily convey to the international community a message emanating from the Organization concerning the need to protect Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

22. Welcomes the official document prepared by the State of Palestine containing a list of violations perpetrated by the occupying Israeli authorities in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

23. Hails the outcome of the new approach adopted by the Al-Quds Committee over the past 12 years, focusing on direct and tangible support, well-defined and purposeful political initiatives and responsiveness to the urgent and ongoing humanitarian needs of the population in order to help them stay in their homeland and undertake any works and field projects in Al-Quds Al-Sharif to face the Judaization policies practised by the Israeli occupation authorities in the Holy City in order to alter its Arab, Muslim and Christian identity and features.

24. Reasserts that the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency, established in 1998 within the framework of OIC, is the Organization's ideal institutional instrument and executive arm upon which the Al-Quds Committee relies in carrying out the tasks it is entrusted with, most notably the monitoring of the implementation of the Organization's resolutions bearing on the preservation of the Arab and Islamic city of Al-Quds and its civilization heritage.

25. Commends the means put by OIC member States at the disposal of the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency, particularly by the Kingdom of Morocco, which has contributed during the last five years as much as 80 per cent of the Agency's budget, to carry out concrete projects for the benefit of Al-Quds and its

population, especially in the social, health-care, cultural and educational sectors and in the area related to the restoration of historical monuments of the Holy City, mainly the Al-Aqsa Mosque and its facilities.

26. Invites all member States and financial institutions to provide the necessary material support to the Agency to help it live up to the aspirations of the Islamic Governments and peoples in defending Al-Quds Al-Sharif in the field.

27. Expresses satisfaction that the fourth session of the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif "Trusteeship Committee" and the second session of the Agency's Board of Directors coincide with the twentieth session of the Al-Quds Committee, held in Marrakech, and welcomes the reports submitted to it by the two reporting bodies of the Agency, including its 2014-2018 five-year projects plan, with a budget of $30 million, and calls upon OIC member States to contribute to this budget.

28. Notes with satisfaction that the aforementioned plan is in line with, and complementary to, the Strategic Plan to support Vital Sectors in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, as adopted by the fourth session of the extraordinary summit (held in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on 15 August 2012), and also notes that the role of the Agency in its implementation was acknowledged by the donors' conference, held in Baku on 11 June 2013.

29. Confirms that, in parallel with the political efforts made by the Committee, support to the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency's field work is of paramount importance in alleviating the sufferings of the population of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the first line of defence of Al-Quds, which is subject to oppression, discrimination and depopulation in their worst forms, and in defending the Holy City, through the major and medium-sized projects it intends to carry out in the following areas of housing, social and educational compounds, historical site restoration, land and real estate purchase, scholarships and health-care equipment in order to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of Al-Quds dwellers, especially women and young people, to support their steadfast resistance, and to maintain the spiritual and cultural landmarks of this wrested-away city.

30. Calls for examining the possibility to put in place a "waqf" and to move to compulsory contributions of OIC member States that will be determined by the States to support the budget of Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its projects.

31. Calls for launching grass-roots donation campaigns in OIC member States to support Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

32. Calls upon OIC member States to organize visits at various levels to Al-Quds Al-Sharif, prompting them to encourage Arab and Muslim businessmen's actual contributions in support of the Holy City, and calls for promoting cooperation between civil society players in the member States and international bodies and stakeholders that are advocating the just cause of Al-Quds.

33. Calls for the proclamation of Al-Quds as the Islamic Culture Capital and prompts the General Secretariat to develop an information strategy designed to unveil Israeli schemes and violations of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and debunk misinformation campaigns on the city's location and history in some media circles, thereby contributing to raising international public awareness of the need to maintain Al-Quds as a world heritage site and a symbol of peace and coexistence.

34. Hails the ongoing consultation and long-standing coordination between the Committee's Chairmanship and the State of Palestine. It entrusts the Chairmanship of the Committee, after consultation with the Presidency of the Palestinian State, to convene meetings at the appropriate level, whenever the need arises, for the purposes of following up on the implementation of the recommendations and all the daily and pressing issues related to the status of Al-Quds and submitting the relevant recommendations to the Chairmanship.

35. Salutes the unswerving resistance of the heroic Palestinian people, especially the steadfast children of Al-Quds. It emphasizes its support to them and to their legitimate struggle to fulfil their just national rights with the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital at the top of the list.

36. Expresses its heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Sovereign of the Kingdom of Morocco and Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, for his noble positions and tireless efforts to defend Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its holy sites, and extends to His Majesty, to the Government and to the people of Morocco its sincere thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and generous hospitality granted to the participating delegations.

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Letter dated 27 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to express our deep concern about the recent escalation of illegal and provocative activities by the Turkish air force within the Nicosia flight information region (FIR).

In particular, the Turkish air force has significantly escalated its interference with civilian and military aircraft flying through Cyprus's national airspace and the Nicosia FIR. Military radar operators in Turkey and in the occupied area of Cyprus notify aircraft that they are about to enter the purported "TRNC airspace" and warn them either to communicate with "Ercan air control" and alter their route or risk being intercepted by the Turkish air force.

An indicative example of these occurrences took place on 14 November 2013 when an Italian military GLF-3 aircraft, which had obtained a diplomatic flight permit from the competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus and while performing a routine patrol flight as part of the NATO mission "Active Endeavour", was intercepted by two Turkish F-16 aircraft. The F-16s approached the Italian aircraft at a distance of one nautical mile, thus seriously threatening air safety and navigation.

These actions constitute further attempts to upgrade the so-called "TRNC", by illegally establishing the division of Cyprus's national airspace and the Nicosia FIR, in defiance of international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, these illegal practices pose serious threats to air safety and navigation and needlessly create additional tension at a particularly sensitive time for the negotiation process.

In the light of the above, Turkey should be called upon to respect international legality, cease all violations and refrain from the harassment of aircraft within the Nicosia FIR.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**

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